

Name of Forum	Women's Health	Date of Report	1 st September 2023
Professional Lead	Carmel Bagness	Forum Chair	Ruth Bailey

Please provide a summary of how the forum has represented the RCN over the past 6 months and the key points for FGG to note:

1. **NHSE/I Menopause Programme Clinical Reference group** The Menopause - Clinical Reference Group advises on the clinical pathway development and the education and training programmes on behalf of the Menopause Programme Steering Group. The intent is to ensure that expert clinicians within NHS England and NHS Improvement, as well as key external clinical stakeholders are able to input into the pathways and the education and training programmes at every stage of the peri/menopause/and postmenopausal phase and ensure alignment with national programmes and priorities. RCN have been key members of this group, with ongoing contributions over the last year.
2. **Delivering on decriminalising abortion** This was a workshop by a coalition of abortion care organisations to consider the current legislation around termination of pregnancy across the UK, and consider how the coalition can move this agenda forwards.
3. **World Endometriosis Congress** Invited speaker on the role of the CNS in endometriosis, which was published by RCN.
4. **Lunch and learn – Menopause** – two members of the forum have contributed to a number of branch menopause session to support members with raising awareness and understanding the impact of menopause on individuals and colleagues.
5. **National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome & Death (NCEPOD) Endometriosis Study. Member has** position of case reviewer on the peer review panel for the National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome & Death (NCEPOD) Endometriosis Study. This retrospective study has been commissioned by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) to review the quality of care provided to patients with a diagnosis of endometriosis.
6. **Lead Shaping Abortion for Change SACHA project** - Opportunity for researchers to share key findings from the SACHA study highlighting areas for policy change:
 - Patient feedback was that largely the experience of abortion care was positive, they valued early access to treatment, good information, choice, and being treated with kindness and with a non-judgemental approach.
 - Service users called for better information about pain and bleeding before treatment and wanted wider access to support if needed.
 - Access to surgical options is becoming more limited and the research highlighted concerns around sustaining a medical workforce equipped with skills in complex surgical management.
 - The current law access as a barrier to Nurses and Midwives using prescribing and MVA skills.
 - There are opportunities to provide abortion care in a wider range of settings such as General Practice, Sexual Health and Women's Health Hubs.
 - Comparison of different models of abortion care around the world such as Australia, Canada and Sweden, where legal frameworks and roles of HCP's differ.
7. **Heavy Menstrual Bleeding Workshop with Hologic** To represent Nursing at this high-level workshop exploring best practice in managing HMB and to design evidence-based pathways and opportunities for collaboration in the future, Overview of history of managing HMB, Review of evidence of management options, Opportunities for future research and development. Discussion on barriers to treatment and care, Practical workshops on redesigning pathways.

What has been the impact or difference made as a result of the member representation.

1. **NHSE/I Menopause Programme Clinical Reference group.** This is a long term project with meetings monthly to work on the clinical pathway . our engagement will ensure that nursing has a voice in this and that specialist nurses will be able to help to deliver this pathway alongside other colleges work on the *think menopause campaign*.
2. **Delivering on decriminalising abortion.** As many members wok in this sector, it is critically important that RCN participates in these discussions and debates, to inform our guidance to nurses and midwives in this area of practice.
3. **World Endometriosis Congress** Impact is highlighting this work to other sin different counties, had questions form medical doctors who are trying to introduce CNS from Ireland and Germany and Kenya. Lead nurse from Australia. Had follow up call with consultant in Germany about how they could develop this role. Great oppourtunity to spread the good practice and to develop other nurses internationally.
4. **Lunch and learn – Menopause** – always beneficial to be able to raise awareness of menopause. The impact on individuals and colleagues includes a better understanding of the signs, symports, and impact especially in the workplace.
5. **National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome & Death (NCEPOD) Endometriosis Study.** Endometriosis is a key area of work for the Forum and the RCN. It is well reported that endometriosis is a common condition but there are delays in diagnosis, health inequalities, no agreed care pathway and treatments offered vary widely from hospital to hospital. This study follows on from the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on endometriosis and aims to provide evidence and make recommendations for care provision.
6. **Lead Shaping Abortion for Change SACHA project** Yes, It is crucial the RCN has a presence to highlight the contribution of nurses and to contribute to policy development Key element of forum strategy is to influence policy development and provide evidence-based guidance in abortion care. Represented RCN and Asked questions about research findings in relation to nursing practice outside the UK, useful for Networking with other stakeholders.
7. **Heavy Menstrual Bleeding Workshop with Hologic** Menstrual wellbeing is a key element of WHF strategy, Working with external stakeholders is central to RCN Strategy, Shared clinical expertise. Highlighted contribution of Nurses and opportunities to develop CNS and ANP roles., Highlighted RCN guidance, strengthen networks between RCN and other organisations represented.

Any other relevant information you would like to share with FGG?

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